

Application No. 09/782,754

Attorney Docket No. UNIV0001C

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A communications system, comprising:

an advice provider which ~~broadcasts information over a communications~~
5. ~~medium to a~~ provides advisories for a plurality of advice consumers, irrespective of
actual relevance of said ~~information~~ advisories to said plurality of advice consumers,
each of said ~~broadcast information~~ advisories comprising a relevance clause
comprising criteria defined by said advice provider wherein said ~~information~~
respective advisory is potentially relevant to a recipient;

10. an advice consumer of said plurality of advice consumers for gathering said
~~broadcast information~~ advisories from said advice provider over a communications
medium;

means for synchronizing said advisories between said advice provider and
said advice consumer, wherein said synchronization is performed through said
15. advice consumer any of continuously, automatically and manually, and wherein said
synchronization comprises maintaining a one-to-one correspondence between
advisories stored at said advice consumer with advisories located at said advice
provider, by gathering new advisories that have been added by said advice provider
since the most recent prior synchronization, and by deleting advisories from said
20. advice consumer that have been retracted by said advice provider since said most
recent prior synchronization; and

a reader associated with said advice consumer for automatically determining
relevance of said stored gathered ~~broadcast information~~ advisories to said advice
consumer, wherein said determined relevance is at least partially based on an
25. automatic evaluation of said relevance clause by said reader;

wherein said advice consumer is advised of said stored gathered advisories
~~broadcast information only if said gathered broadcast information is~~ which are
determined to be relevant by said reader.

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2. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein said reader further comprises:

means for providing relevant ~~information~~ advisories to said advice consumer without revealing any aspect of said advice consumer's identity to said advice provider.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein relevance of said ~~information~~ advisories to said advice consumer is based upon any of the properties of an advice consumer's computer, said computer's contents or state, or the properties of a local environment associated with said computer.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 2, wherein said advice consumer maintains anonymity, privacy, and security by not revealing to said advice provider either that said advice consumer is interested in ~~information~~ said advisories from said advice provider, that said advice consumer has received any particular ~~message~~ advisory, or that said ~~information~~ advisory is relevant to said advice consumer.

5. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein said ~~information-being broadcast-comprises~~ advisories further comprise any of humanly-interpretable content, data, and software tools.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein said advice provider specifies an audience for whom ~~said information is~~ a particular advisory is potentially relevant by referring to properties of an advice consumer which are used to determine the said relevance of said ~~information~~ particular advisory to said advice consumer.

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7. (Currently Amended) A communications method, comprising the steps of:
- preparing at least one advisory a message at an advice provider, each of said advisories comprising a relevance clause comprising conditions under which said respective advisory is potentially relevant to potential advice consumers;
- 5 ~~providing a relevance clause associated with said message at said advice provider, said relevance clause comprising conditions under which said message is potentially relevant to potential advice consumers;~~
- ~~broadcasting said message with said relevance clause to~~ synchronizing said advisories between said advice provider and said potential advice consumers
- 10 anonymously using a network, wherein said synchronization comprises maintaining a one-to-one correspondence between advisories stored at said potential advice consumers with advisories located at said advice provider, by gathering new advisories that have been added by said advice provider since the most recent prior synchronization, and by deleting advisories from said potential advice consumers
- 15 that have been retracted by said advice provider since said most recent prior synchronization, wherein said synchronization is performed any of continuously, automatically and manually through said potential advice consumers, message is broadcast to advice consumers to whom said message is potentially relevant without requiring that said advice consumers divulge their identity or attributes or message-related relevance information to said advice provider;
- 20 ~~receiving said broadcast message at said potential advice consumers;~~
- storing said ~~received broadcast message~~ synchronized advisories at an advice consumer location; and
- automatically determining at said advice consumer location whether ~~said stored~~
- 25 ~~received broadcast message is~~ each of said stored synchronized advisories are relevant to said advice consumer, wherein said determined relevance is at least partially based on an automatic evaluation of said respective relevance clause clauses at said advice consumer location.

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8. (Currently Amended) In a system including computational devices connected by a communications network, a communications apparatus, comprising:

specific units of advice to be shared;

digital documents conveying said advice;

5 an advice provider for ~~broadcasting~~ providing said advice in the form of advisories ~~to for~~ a plurality of advice consumers, wherein each said advisory further comprises a relevance clause comprising criteria defined by said advice provider wherein said advisory is potentially relevant to a recipient;

10 an advice consumer of said plurality of advice consumers for ~~receiving~~ gathering said advisories from said advice provider over said communications network;

15 ~~wherein said advisories are means for~~ anonymously synchronizing said advisories broadcast over said communications network from between said advice provider and ~~are received by~~ said advice consumer, wherein said advisories are potentially relevant to said advice consumer, ~~and~~ wherein said advice consumer is not required to divulge to said advice provider any of their identity, attributes and message-related relevance information, wherein said synchronization is performed through said advice consumer any of continuously, automatically and manually, and wherein the synchronization comprises maintaining a one-to-one correspondence

20 between advisories stored at the advice consumer with advisories located at the advice provider, by gathering new advisories that have been added by said advice provider since the most recent prior synchronization, and by deleting advisories from said advice consumer that have been retracted by said advice provider since said most recent prior synchronization; and

25 a communications protocol for narrowly-focused targeting of said ~~received~~ synchronized stored advisories to said advice consumer by automatically matching said ~~received~~ synchronized stored advisories at said advice consumer for whom said ~~received~~ synchronized stored advisories are potentially relevant, wherein said automatic matching is at least partially based on evaluating said relevance clauses

30 at said advice consumer.

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9. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 8, further comprising:

an advice reader associated with an advice consumer computer for performing relevance determination.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein said relevance determination is automatically performed based on a combination of conditions, including any of hardware attributes, configuration attributes, database attributes, environmental attributes, computed attributes, remote attributes, timeliness, personal attributes, randomization, and advice attributes.

11. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein said advice reader operates automatically to determine relevance.

12. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 9, said advice reader comprising:

a gatherer for gathering advisories to which said advice consumer subscribes;
a subscription manager for entering subscriptions to advisories based on information in at least one advice consumer site definition file;

an unwrapper for parsing said advisories;

a module for determining the relevance of said advisories, said determination being made either continuously, at scheduled intervals, or under user manual control;

a user interface that receives relevant advisories; and

a display and management system that displays relevant advisories for inspection by said advice consumer.

13. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein any information that is actually on an advice consumer computer or reachable from said advice consumer computer may be used to determine relevance.

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14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein said advisories comprise:

digital documents that contain an explanatory component describing in terms said advice consumer can easily understand the reason that said advisory is relevant and the purpose and effects of the action that is being recommended to said advice consumer.

15. (Withdrawn) A communications apparatus, comprising:

an advisory comprising:

a relevance clause comprising an assertion about the state of an advice consumer computer, its contents, or environment which can be automatically evaluated by comparing said assertion with said advice consumer computer's actual state;

a message associated with said relevance clause whose suitability for the consumer is determined at least partially by the evaluation of said relevance clause;

a gatherer for assuring that relevance clauses flow into said advice consumer computer from various locations;

a watcher for evaluating relevance clauses by comparing them with an actual state of an advice consumer environment, and by inspecting properties of said advice consumer computer and its environment and checking if these point towards or away from relevance; and

a notifier for displaying messages to an advice consumer under at least partial guidance of an evaluated relevance clause.

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16. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein said relevance clause specifies conditions under which said advisory is relevant, and wherein said advisory further comprises any of:

5 a wrapper for packaging information in said advisory for transport and subsequent decoding;

a from line for identifying an advice author;

a subject line for identifying the concern of said advisory;

10 a message body for providing explanatory material explaining to said advice consumer what condition is relevant, why said advice consumer is concerned, and what action is recommended; and

an action button for providing said advice consumer with the ability to invoke an automatic execution of a recommended action.

15 17. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein said automatic evaluation of said relevance clause by said reader comprises a parsing of said relevance clause into any of a tree of subexpressions and a method dispatch for invoking an inspector.

20 18. (Previously Presented) The communications method of Claim 7, wherein said conditions refer to attributes associated with said potential advice consumers.

25 19. (Previously Presented) The communications method of Claim 7, wherein said determined relevance is based on any of properties of an advice consumer computer, contents of said advice consumer computer, a state of said advice consumer computer, and properties of a local environment associated with said advice consumer computer.

30 20. (Previously Presented) The communications method of Claim 7, wherein said automatic evaluation of said relevance clause at said advice consumer comprises parsing said relevance clause into any of a tree of subexpressions and a method dispatch for invoking an inspector.

21. (Previously Presented) The communications method of Claim 20, wherein said subexpressions are evaluated.

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22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein said evaluation of said relevance clause at said advice consumer comprises parsing each said relevance clause into any of a tree of subexpressions and a method dispatch for invoking an inspector.

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